

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PRS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /063 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:RRSTRAND:OSM

APPROVED BY AF/C:APALMER

S/PRS:EPERNICK (SUBS)

AF/P:JLINEHAN

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R 062212Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT OF ALLEGATIONS OF CIA INVOLVEMENT

-- IN LUMUMBA ASSASSINATION

1. WASH POST MARCH 6 FRONTPAGES STORY ON ALLEGED CIA INVOLVEMENT IN ASSASSINATION OR ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF THREE FOREIGN LEADERS, TRUJILLO, CASTRO AND LUMUMBA. BULK OF ARTICLE AND MOST SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS DEAL WITH TRUJILLO AND CASTRO CASES. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF THREE PARAGRAPHS (NOT CONSECUTIVE) DEALING WITH LUMUMBA CASE:

QTE IN THE CONGO, ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, THE AGENCY REPORTEDLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT AN ASSASSINATION OF THE LEFT-ORIENTED LEADER WAS DISCUSSED IN SOME AGENCY CIRCLES, BUT NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AND LUMUMBA'S MURDER IN 1961 WAS DONE BY OTHERS NOT CONNECTED WITH THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

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UNQTE

QTE LUMUMBA, THE DEPOSED PREMIER OF THE NEWLY-INDEPENDENT CONGO, DIED MYSTERIOUSLY IN FEBRUARY OF 1961 AND THE SECESSIONIST KATANGA PROVINCE GOVERNMENT THAT OPPOSED HIM GAVE CASH REWARD TO THE VILLAGE TRIBESMEN WHOM IT CREDITED WITH THE KILLING. UNQTE

QTE RUMORS AND SUSPICIONS HAVE SURROUNDED THE DEATH OF LUMUMBA IN THE CONGO FOR MANY YEARS, THOUGH NOT AIMED EXCLUSIVELY AT THE CIA. OFFICIALS CLOSE TO AFRICAN DIPLOMACY IN THAT PERIOD SAID THERE WERE A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT PARTIES WHO MIGHT HAVE LAUNCHED THE PLOT TO KILL THE PREMIER. UNQTE

2. PRESS GUIDANCE: DEPT WILL FOLLOW NORMAL POLICY OF NOT COMMENTING ON ALLEGATIONS ABOUT CIA ACTIVITIES. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, ASSASSINATION, PRESS COMMENTS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE050766
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RRSTRAND:OSM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750080-0704
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750375/aaaacplz.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REPORT OF ALLEGATIONS OF CIA INVOLVEMENT -- IN LUMUMBA ASSASSINATION
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, US, CG, CIA, (LUMUMBA)
To: KINSHASA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006